

Washington, August 8<sup>th</sup> 1846

Rev. A. A. Phelps  
New York

92 My dear Sir:

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your esteemed favor of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. and have read it again and again with mingled emotions of gratitude and regret. gratitude for your humane, kind friendly, course and action, and regret for the trouble, anxiety and mortification which you doubtless have encountered and felt - and regret also for the result of your efforts to effect a loan -

In regard to Ann, I took leave to write to you on the 3<sup>d</sup> inst. Monday-morning, to Ph<sup>a</sup> and gave directions to the Post Master in Ph<sup>a</sup> that if you sh<sup>d</sup> not call for the letter in a day or two to forward it to N. York.

In that letter I respectfully repeated my desire, expressed to you verbally, to get Ann placed in a good kind-hearted family where she would be well cared for and I be allowed to pay for it. I still prefer this, for many obvious reasons one, not so obvious, a reason however is, that should I go, as I may soon, to California, or New York, or elsewhere, which I am struggling to do, I might desire to have Ann with me.

Language fails me when I would thank you for taking Ann on with you to your home. Oh you, my dear Sir, I trust she will not long be a burden or a charge of any sort - and I shall insist on your allowing me to reimburse and remunerate you for all expenses, support, &c. of her, for such time as you may do me



and the poor little thing the favor and kindness to dispense your mercies to her - I will endeavor to relieve you soon.

I notice what you say as to binding Ann for service - and appreciate your motives for advising me to such a step.

I have ever been opposed to binding out a child. I was once an indentured apprentice and had to bear contumely and other bad treatment. Apart also from natural

and personal feelings, the idea of fettering a child is unpleasant to me. I seek to loose - not forge chains -

especially for a child who can be governed and made useful by ordinary restraints and discipline and the affections - without even the temporary thralldom of apprenticeship. I am frank in expressing my view of

this matter because I am anxious not to be misapprehended - for I act from principle as well as feeling - and what I say I beg you to understand is not complaining of any, who, like you, honestly differ from me in opinion - and least of all do I wish to be understood as complaining of your advice. So, my dear Sir,

I trust I know how to appreciate your advice, but I think I know too that your liberality will tolerate my dissent from your view. I think that Ann can be reared and educated and fortified and provided to struggle in the world - and perhaps better too - without being bound. If well treated, and I should not be able to compensate for that good treatment, she would - and if ill treated I would not - could not forgive myself for having placed her in a position where she would have to endure violence or



injury to her feelings or interests. Well, after after all this,  
I have only to say, that could Ann be found a place where  
she would be well taken care of and have a home - feeling  
to soothe her and make her happy in her studies and her  
toils - toils, first for herself and then for kind patrons - whoever  
they should be, in case I should not be enabled to pay for  
and compensate fully, all their care &c. - I would like to  
be informed of such a place and will, on knowing all,  
decide promptly - the more promptly to relieve you  
of your burden for which trust me I will, with the  
help of God, requite you - but I repeat, that I  
would not like in any case or event to indenture  
her - and I hope to be able to pay, and will pay,  
out of my salary now, and from other resources hereafter  
if I have them, for the care, board, tuition &c. of  
her. I can never, I hope and trust, fail to pay for all  
this whilst I live, and when I may not be able  
or die, my daughter Charlotte Catherine, or  
my son Wm. Pinkney Tyler, of the Navy,  
or both, will. They both have promised me  
to look after, care for and protect her, and  
they will take care of and protect her - I mean  
Ann. - However good maybe my fortune in future  
I can never be too grateful to you for the good part  
you are acting toward Ann and me. My  
daughter begs me to allow her to join me in this  
sentiment, for, she thinks you must have seen  
how she loves Ann altho she strove to hide it,  
and she has vividly described to me your kind



sympathetic attention to Ann and to her - In regard to Ann I will write you anon, but I will not inflict on you another so long epistle. - Permit me now to touch upon another interesting subject - the none can be more interesting - none more important to my peace - than that just dropped - that other subject is the loan. I am sadly disappointed at the failure in Ph<sup>a</sup>. - I did think that Dr. Winter was sincere. - Well, my dear Sir, Mr. Gantt, the holder of my notes came to see me on the evening of the day of your departure. I told him that in a week I hoped to be enabled to take up the notes that are due - as you had in kindness told me, and understood you, I might tell him, as you thought that, with the aid of the 25 dolls. some one offered, you might be enabled to make up the \$100 to pay him. I know not how I can now satisfy him. But I notice that Mr. Rogers is willing to give the \$100 if you say so, and that his contemplated two weeks absence from Albany has transpired today. - My dear Sir, can you not write to him on the subject as he invites you in his letter to do? I will joyfully - most thankfully accept the \$100 as a loan on the terms you propose, and I know not - see not cannot conceive how anything else - other than that succour, can remove my present difficulty with Mr. Gantt. The amount might be sent to you and remitted to me on my sending to you my



obligation for it in any form you may prescribe.  
Do write me if this cannot be done without delay.  
If so, can you not at the same time that you advise  
me that it can, also write to Mr. Rogers accordingly?

He seems to refer the matter to you - that he will  
give it if you approve it - My Daughter has  
some clothes she has made for Ann, who she says  
needs them, and some other things left by her in the  
hurry of departure. Please instruct me where I shall  
send them by "Adams' Express" so that they may  
reach you without inconvenience or trouble to you.

My dear friend, the time may come when I  
may repay you or yours for all your kindness - your  
goodness - your friendly offices to us - and be assured  
it shall be done if ever I am able - and if not by  
me by my Son or Daughter or both. I shall  
battle on for something better in life than clerking  
and a change of my fortune for the better may  
work - shall work for your good. Be rest  
confident that Ann is at present happy and  
cared for by you and your inestimable wife, as  
my Daughter heard in Bath: she is, and of which  
I have not the least doubt. Tell her that we  
thank her from our hearts for her goodness and will  
never forget it. She is a mother, and you a  
father, and you can understand feelings poorly  
famously expressed. I hope that you will soon be  
relieved of any inconvenience that Ann may be to  
your family. Give our love to Ann, and please tell



her that Charlotte says she must not get her face  
and hands sun-burnt, and that she will write her  
a letter when she sends her clothes - Be pleased to  
write to me often - and to let me hear from you soon  
on the subject of the \$100 at Albany.

With the best wishes of us all and our prayers for  
the happiness of yourself and family, I am, most truly  
Dear Sir, Your devoted friend  
J. B. Tolson

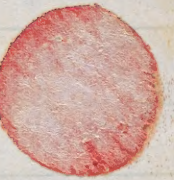
P. S.

The youngest other child - now about 13 years  
old may be bound out, as the mother wishes it,  
thinking that it may be for her good, whilst she  
is utterly opposed to Ann's being bound out, and, as  
the same reasons do not exist for me to object on  
the score of feeling to the elder child being bound  
out. The oldest child may therefore be bound  
out as soon as she can be paid for and be got away  
to the North. She can at once be very serviceable  
- and perhaps the binding her might be an inducement  
for some one to aid the cause of freeing by assisting  
to get a loan. When the oldest child can be got away, then,  
I shall be glad to have her mother bind her to Mr. Phelps's sister.

You kindly mention your Cousin in Farmington  
- and as a Farmer, and speak of motherly care. Is  
your cousin a lady or a gentleman? and please  
inform me of the whereabouts of Farmington in  
Conn - its locality &c and what compensation



would be asked time by your Cousin for Ann to board &c.  
of.?







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Rev. Mr. A. A. Phelps

New York

Ms. A. 9. 13.  
Washington Aug 6/46.  
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